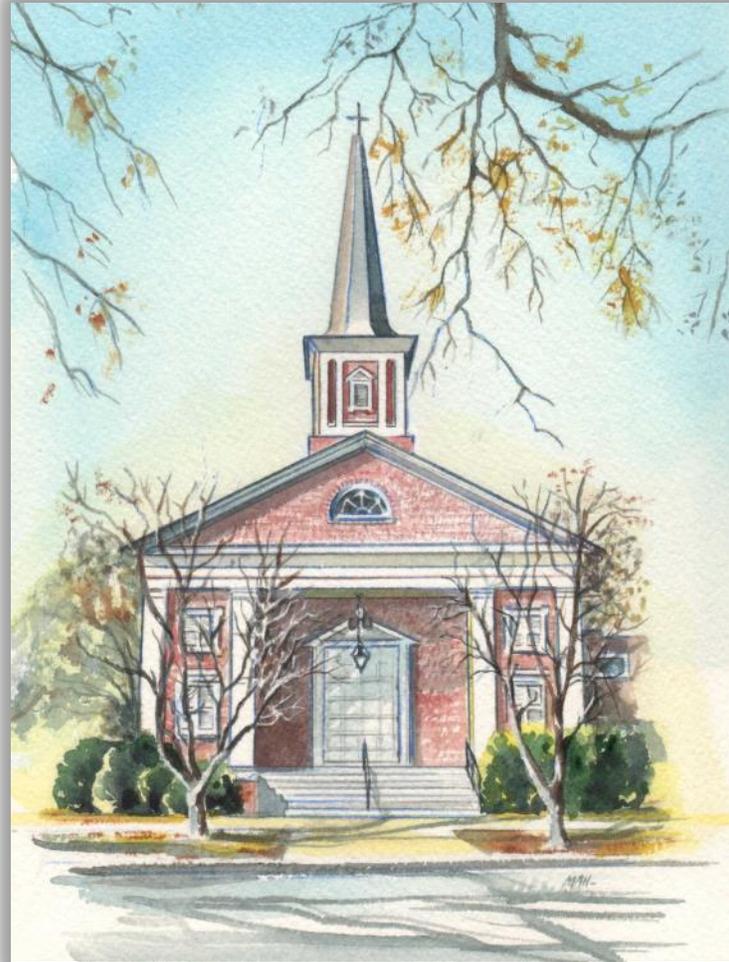


Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 2, 2020



Historic First Presbyterian Church Decatur, Alabama Est. 1853

THE REV. RICHARD H. BROOKS, PASTOR

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ,
who love God, love one another, and serve the world.*

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Welcome to all who come to worship God

Welcome & Prelude

INTROIT

Blessed Be the Name

O for a thousand tongues to sing: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

The glories of my God and King: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name, blessed be the name; Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name, blessed be the name; Blessed be the name of the Lord!

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come; and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Lift up your eyes and look around; as sons and daughters of God gather together in worship.

People: **Then we shall see and be radiant; our hearts shall thrill and we shall rejoice. We shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord, God Almighty.**

Unison: **Let us worship the God of our salvation!**

† HYMN of PRAISE

Arise, You Light Is Come!

#411

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Psalm 32

Source of salvation and light, forgive us when we fail to sense the mystery of your love. We bear grudges against our neighbors, while we ask forgiveness for our sins. We hold tightly to our possessions, while Christ challenges us to share with the poor. We continue to promote our wars, yet claim to follow Jesus who proclaimed peace to the nations. In the power of your Holy Spirit help us to mend our ways. Remind us again that our Lord had compassion on all those who suffered and that it is now our ministry in Christ's name. We seek your mercy and direction through Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our silent petitions... Amen.

† ASSURANCE of PARDON

John 3:16-17

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

People: **In Jesus Christ we are Forgiven!**

† GLORIA PATRI & SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A-men. Amen.

MUSIC of PREPARATION

Come, Thou Fount

Choir

THE LORD'S DAY:

From its beginning, the Christian Church has gathered on the first day of the week to hear the scriptures proclaimed and celebrate the Lord's Supper. This day has significance as it was "the first day of the week, following the Sabbath" when Jesus' followers discovered the empty tomb and met the risen Lord. The Lord's Day, therefore, is the very center of the church calendar and the lives of those following Jesus as "the way of truth and life."

CONFESSION & PARDON:

Scripture calls people to confess the reality of sin in personal and corporate life. Confession is an acknowledgment of unworthiness, except by God's grace and love. Reclaiming God's forgiveness in scripture, people can let go of past failures and claim renewal in Christ Jesus. Having been reconciled in relationship to God, people are invited to share renewal in expressing forgiveness, acceptance, love, and unity to others in "the peace of Christ."

NOTES:

† *Those who are able, please stand.*

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Galatians

ANTHEM

Heavenly Father

Choir

HOMILY
Brooks

“We Are Accepted by Faith”

Rev. Richard

COMMUNION HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart #326

HOLY COMMUNION with the Great Thanksgiving

See Insert

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Matthew 6:19-21

† DOXOLOGY

† AFFIRMATION of FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

† HYMN of COMMITMENT

Take My Life

#391

† BENEDICTION

Psalm 37:5-6

Wherever we are, God has placed us there. Wherever we go, God will lead us there. God has a purpose for our lives, from our going out and our coming in, now and forever. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

† CHORAL RESPONSE

Choir and Congregation

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace, and give you peace; The lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious, and be gracious; The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

Postlude

SCRIPTURE & SERMON:

The Bible is a collection of books written over 1,000 of years and preserved as Holy Scripture. Scripture is proclaimed as the community of faith seeks to hear God's Word speak to the daily life and current world events. The God who acted in biblical history acts today. Through the Holy Spirit, God speaks to those who open to hearing and seeing. The proclamation of God's Word invites a response of faith through prayer, song, an affirmation of faith, prayer, and offering.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The people respond to the proclamation of the Word by affirming their faith. Creeds seasoned by the historical church since 325 A.D. express the faith of the church. The Apostles' Creed is a statement of core Christian beliefs developed initially as a baptismal rite in the early church. Its term "catholic" refers to the wholeness of the universal church.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION:

A formal dismissal concludes the service with **God's blessing** for life, **Christ's call** to obedient, and the **Holy Spirit's power** to be strong in a broken world. Our confidence in God's providence is spoken in unison, reminding us that God will guide us through the storms of life together.

† *Those who are able, please stand.*



First Presbyterian Church

701 Oak Street
Decatur, AL 35601

256-353-0253

FPCdecaturAL@gmail.com

www.FPCdecaturAL.org

**LEADERSHIP AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Richard H. Brooks, Minister

RichardHBrooks@gmail.com

Karen Thatcher Moore, *Music Director*

Kevin Long, *Music Outreach Coordinator*

Rob Corn, *Social Media Outreach Coordinator*

Amber Stewart, *Office Administrator*

RULING ELDERS

Bob Sparks,
Clerk of Session

Class of 2020

John Edington
Charles Howard

Class of 2021

Parker Moore
Debbie Gibson

Class of 2022

Donna Huffman
Bob Sparks

LITURGIST

Charlie Guyton

USHERS

John Pearce
Malcom Prewitt



**Agility, Balance, and
Strength***

ABS program for
individuals in our
congregation and
the community.

Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday

10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

(follows the school system
weather policy)

*A ministry of Senior Connection

**Session will meet on
February 16
Lunch Provided**



The Way Made Clear

Copies are now available
at the church office.

\$15 - Soft Bound

In Our Thoughts and Prayers . . .

Our Homebound:

Shirley Coleman

Juanita Dukes

Lynn & Ann Fowler

Jerry Garth

Dicky Maynor

Sue & Charles Murphree

Liz Pilgrim

Jane Rowe

Caroline Taylor

Anne Thornhill

Jean Vernon

Our Family Members in Military Service:

Peyton Davis - Army, Fort Bragg, NC
(nephew of Luke Pryor)

Happy Birthday . . .

February

03 - Sue Murphree

04 - Carolyn Shelton

09 - Mike Smith

19 - Ran Pickell

March

05 - Bob Sparks

08 - Parker Moore

09 - Charlie Guyton

20 - Donna Huffman

20 - Nancy Moss



For Your Calendar . . .

Monday

ABS

10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Mat Weaving

12:15 p.m.

Wednesday

ABS

10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

6:00 p.m.

Friday

ABS

10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday

Coffee Fellowship

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Worship

10:30 a.m.

Footsteps to Follow

“We are Accepted by Faith”

Galatians 3

by Richard Brooks FPC-D

BIBLICAL EXPOSITION & ANNOTATION:

Galatians 1: 1-5

Paul, an apostle (*ἀπόστολος [ap-os'-tol-os]* a messenger, envoy, one commissioned for a mission) - sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him (*Jesus*) from the dead - and all the brothers with me, To the churches in Galatia: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Galatians 3: 26-29

You are all sons (and daughters) of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3: 6-11

Consider Abraham: "He believed (*πιστεύω [pist-yoo'-o]* trust, faith, act with confidence) **God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."** Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

So those who have faith (*πίστις [pis'-tis]* belief, trust, confidence) **are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous shall live by faith."**

The word of the Lord; Thanks be to God!

HOMILY:

Paul: “Justification by faith”

Paul: "The righteous shall live by faith."

The 1215 English *Magna Carta*